

Hiking the Trail

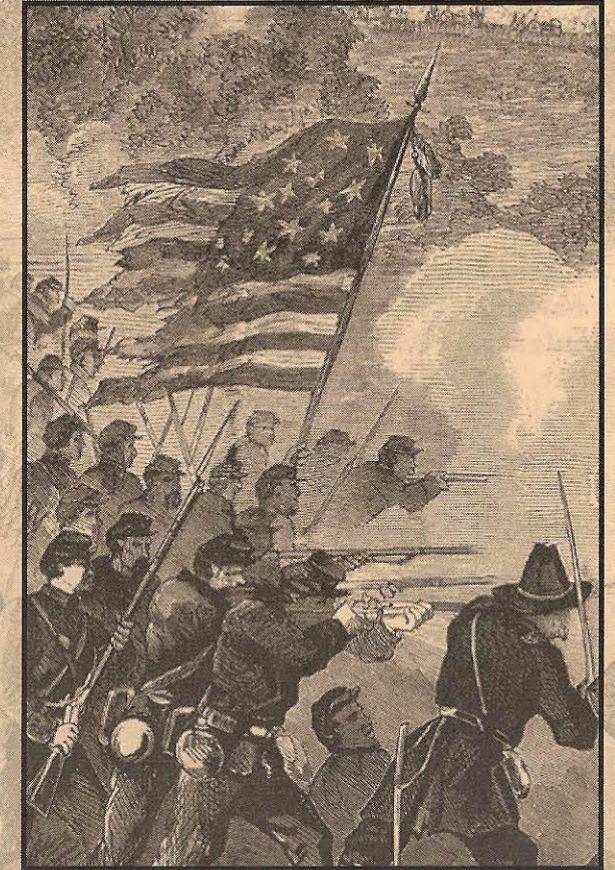
This loop trail, approximately four miles in length, traverses portions of the May 3 battlefield and the final Union defensive line. Blue blazes on trees and mowed paths in clearings mark the route. Signs and maps at key locations will help you understand what occurred here.

Start your walk at the large battle painting outside the Chancellorsville Battlefield Visitor Center. As you face the battle painting, Bullock Road will be on your left. The trail begins across Bullock Road, at the edge of the woods opposite the western exit of the visitor center parking lot. This 20-minute loop leads back to the visitor center. The trail then picks up at a point on the north side of the parking lot, fifty yards east of the flagpole. Allow at least two hours to complete the entire circuit.



Information and Safety

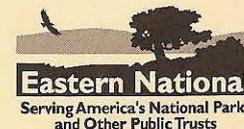
- Federal law prohibits the possession of metal detectors or the collection of relics within the park.
- Help protect the earthworks by staying on the trail.
- Rest-rooms and drinking water are available at the Chancellorsville Battlefield Visitor Center on Route 3.
- Do not drink water from streams.
- Beware of poison ivy and ticks.
- Picnicking is allowed only at the established area adjacent to the Chancellorsville Visitor Center parking lot.
- Bicycles and motorized vehicles are prohibited on the trails. Horses must stay on designated trails.
- Although hunting inside the park is illegal, it is wise to exercise caution and wear bright colors when walking the trail during hunting season.
- Be aware of trail hazards and uneven surfaces. Wear sturdy shoes or boots.
- Road traces and animal trails crisscross the area. To stay on the hiking trail, follow the map carefully and look for blue blazes on the trees.



Chancellorsville History Trail

A Walking Tour

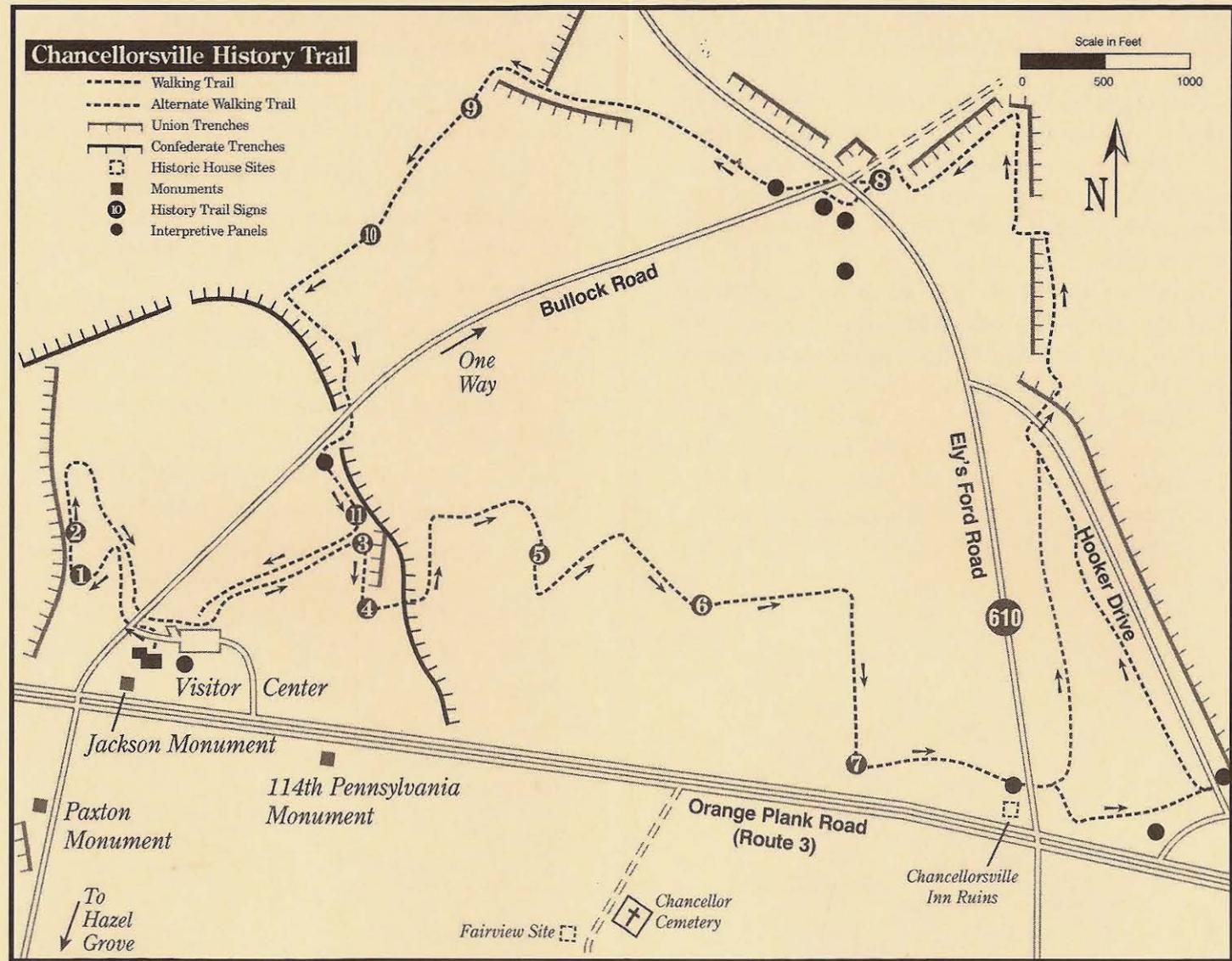
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Here in the tangled thickets of the Wilderness, near a roadside inn called Chancellorsville, Robert E. Lee achieved his greatest victory of the Civil War. Lee commanded the Army of Northern Virginia. For nearly a week his 60,000-man army battled a force more than twice its size across miles of wooded terrain.

The most decisive fighting took place on the morning of May 3 along the Orange Plank Road, modern Route 3. The great Confederate leader, "Stonewall" Jackson, had been wounded on May 2, following a successful attack on the Union army's right flank. His replacement, thirty-year-old J. E. B. Stuart, resumed the offensive the next day, launching a series of relentless assaults against fortified Union positions. South of the highway, Stuart's men attacked Fairview, an elevated clearing defended by nearly forty Union cannon. Confederate troops north of the road supported this effort, aiming for the open ground around Chancellorsville itself. In five hours of fierce combat, more than 17,500 soldiers were killed, wounded, or captured.

Fairview fell about 10:00 a.m. and soon thereafter the victorious Southerners captured Chancellorsville as well. Union commander Joseph Hooker, himself wounded by Confederate artillery fire, ordered a retreat. His army fell back about one mile to a strong position protecting its escape route across the Rappahannock River. Hooker quietly occupied this fortified position for more than two days, allowing Lee to detach a significant portion of his army to meet a new Union threat at Salem Church, seven miles to the east. The Confederate commander reunited his forces at Chancellorsville on May 5. He moved forward to attack Hooker the next day, but his troops found only empty trenches. The Union army had crossed the river during the night, ending the campaign.



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| ① Civil War Earthworks | ⑤ Hays' Brigade | ⑨ Stone's Reconnaissance |
| ② The Wilderness of Spotsylvania County | ⑥ Union Counterattack | ⑩ A Midnight Conference |
| ③ Junction of Earthworks | ⑦ Chancellorsville Clearing | ⑪ The Union Army Escapes |
| ④ Confederate Breakthrough | ⑧ Apex of Hooker's Last Line | |